

In the Claims:

1. **(previously presented)** A pigment, comprising  
(A) optionally a layer consisting of a metal,  
(B) at least one layer, which is located between the layers (A) and (C), if a layer (A) is present, and consists of the metal, silicon (Si) and oxygen (O), obtained by calcination of plane-parallel structures (flakes) comprising at least one layer consisting of a metal and at least one layer consisting of  $\text{SiO}_z$  with  $0.70 \leq z \leq 2.0$ , in a non-oxidizing atmosphere and  
(C) optionally a layer consisting of  $\text{SiO}_z$  on layer (B), wherein  $0.70 \leq z \leq 2.0$ .
2. **(currently amended)** A pigment according to claim 1, comprising  
layer (B) and  
(C) at least one layer consisting of  $\text{SiO}_z$  on layer (B), wherein  $0.70 \leq z \leq 2.0$ .
3. **(previously presented)** The pigment according to claim 1, comprising  
(C1) a layer consisting of  $\text{SiO}_z$ ,  
(B) which is located between the layers (C1) and (C2),  
(C2) at least one layer consisting of  $\text{SiO}_z$  on layer (B), wherein  $0.70 \leq z \leq 2.0$ .
4. **(currently amended)** The pigment according to claim 3, comprising  
(D) an additional layer of a material having ~~a high an~~ index of refraction greater than about 1.65.
5. **(currently amended)** The pigment according to claim 4, comprising  
(D1) a layer of a material having ~~a high an~~ index of refraction greater than about 1.65,  
~~especially  $\text{TiO}_2$~~   
(C1) a layer consisting of  $\text{SiO}_z$ ,  
layer (B) which is located between the layers (C1) and (C2),  
(C2) a layer consisting of  $\text{SiO}_z$ , and  
(D2) a layer of a material having ~~a high an~~ index of refraction greater than about 1.65,  
wherein  $0.70 \leq z \leq 2.0$ .
6. **(previously presented)** The pigment according to claim 1, wherein the metal is selected from Ag, Al, Cu, Cr, Mo, Ni, Ti, or alloys thereof.

7. **(previously presented)** The pigment according to claim 3 having the following layer structure:  $\text{TiO}_2/\text{SiO}_z/\text{core}/\text{SiO}_z/\text{TiO}_2$ , wherein the core is formed of a layer (B) or of a layer (B)/layer (A)/layer (B), wherein the layer (B) is present on the plane-parallel faces, but not the side faces of layer (A), wherein the  $\text{SiO}_z$  layer is only present on the plane-parallel faces, but not the side faces and the  $\text{TiO}_2$  layer is applied to the whole surface;  $\text{SiC}/\text{SiO}_z/\text{core}/\text{SiO}_z/\text{SiC}$ , or  $\text{C}/\text{SiO}_z/\text{core}/\text{SiO}_z/\text{C}$ , wherein  $0.70 \leq z \leq 2.0$ .
8. **(previously presented)** A pigment, obtained by calcination of plane-parallel structures (flakes), comprising (A) at least one layer consisting of a metal and (C) at least one layer consisting of  $\text{SiO}_z$  with  $0.70 \leq z \leq 2.0$ , in a non-oxidizing atmosphere and optionally coating of the obtained flakes with further layers.
9. **(cancelled)**
10. **(cancelled)**
11. **(previously presented)** A textile, coating, paint, printing ink, plastic composition, cosmetic preparation, or a glaze for ceramic and glass, comprising a pigment according to claim 1.
12. **(cancelled).**
13. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 1, wherein  $1.40 \leq z \leq 2.0$ .
14. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 2, wherein  $1.40 \leq z \leq 2.0$ .
15. **(previously presented)** The pigment according to claim 4, wherein the material comprising the additional layer (D) having a high index of refraction is selected from the group consisting of  $\text{TiO}_2$ , amorphous carbon, diamond-like carbon and silicon carbide.
16. **(previously presented)** A pigment according to claim 5, wherein  $1.40 \leq z \leq 2.0$ .

17. **(previously presented)** The pigment according to claim 5, wherein the material comprising layers (D1) and (D2) is  $\text{TiO}_2$ .

**18-19. (cancelled)**

20. **(previously presented)** A textile, coating, paint, printing ink, plastic, composition, cosmetic preparation, or a glaze for ceramic and glass, comprising a pigment according to claim 2.
21. **(previously presented)** A textile, coating, paint, printing ink, plastic, composition, cosmetic preparation, or a glaze for ceramic and glass, comprising a pigment according to claim 8.
22. **(previously presented)** A textile, coating, paint, printing ink, plastic, composition, cosmetic preparation, or a glaze for ceramic and glass, comprising a pigment according to claim 13.